Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A medical method for treating a person, the method comprising:

delivering a positive pressure breath to the person;

extracting respiratory gases from the person's airway using a vacuum following the positive pressure breath to create an intrathoracic vacuum to lower pressures in the heart and to enhance blood flows back to the heart; and

repeating the steps of delivering positive pressure breaths and extracting respiratory gases.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the person is suffering from ailments selected from a group consisting of head trauma associated with elevated intracranial pressures, low blood pressure, low blood circulation, low blood volume, cardiac arrest and heart failure.

3. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising regulating the amount of intrathoracic vacuum using a threshold valve that is in fluid communication with the person's airway.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein the threshold valve is configured to open when the person's negative intrathoracic pressure reaches about -3 cm H2O to about -20cm H2O to permit respiratory gases to flow into the person's airway.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 3, further comprising stopping application of the vacuum when applying the positive pressure breath using a switching arrangement.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the positive pressure breath is delivered using source selected from a group consisting of a mechanical ventilator, a hand held bag valve resuscitator, mouth-to-mouth, or a means to provide intermittent positive pressure ventilation.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the respiratory gases are extracted with a constant extraction, varied over time, or a pulsed extraction.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the breath is delivered for a time in the range for about 250 milliseconds to about 2 seconds.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the breath is delivered at a rate in the range from about 0.1 liters per seconds to about 5 liters per second.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the vacuum is maintained at a pressure in the level from about 0 mmHg to about -50 mmHg.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 10, wherein the vacuum is maintained with negative flow or without flow.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the time the positive pressure breath is supplied relative to the time in which respiratory gases are extracted is in the range from about 0.5 to about 0.1.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the respiratory gases are extracted using equipment selected from a group consisting of a mechanical ventilator, a vacuum with vacuum regulator, a phrenic nerve stimulator, an extrathoracic vest, a ventilator bag, and an iron lung cuirass device.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the respiratory gases are lowered to an intrathoracic pressure of about -5 mmHg to about -10 mmHg and then kept generally constant until the next positive pressure breath.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the positive breath is slowly delivered and the respiratory gases are rapidly lowered to an intrathoracic pressure of about -5 mmHg to about -20 mmHg and then gradually reduced towards about 0 mmHg.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the respiratory gases are slowly lowered to a pressure of about – 5 mmHg to about -20 mm Hg.

17. (Original) A device for lowering intrathoracic pressures, the device comprising:

a means to interface with the patient's airway;

a means to repeatedly extract respiratory gases from the patient's lungs and airway to create and periodically maintain a negative intrathoracic pressure;

a means to repeatedly regulate the extraction of respiratory gases within the patient's lungs and airway; and

a means to deliver a positive pressure breath, to periodically provide inspiration of respiratory gases.

18. (Original) A device as in claim 17, wherein the means to extract respiratory gases comprises vacuum source selected from a group consisting of a suction line or venturi device attached to an oxygen tank

19. (Original) A device as in claim 17, further comprising a switching mechanism to stop the extraction of respiratory gases during delivery of a positive pressure breath, wherein the switching mechanism is selected from a group consisting of mechanical devices, magnetic devices, and electronic devices.

20. (Original) A device as in claim 17, wherein the means for extracting respiratory gases is selected from a group consisting of a mechanical ventilator, a vacuum with vacuum regulator, a phrenic nerve stimulator, an extrathoracic vest, a ventilator bag, and an iron lung cuirass device.

21. (Original) A device as in claim 17, wherein the means for regulating comprises a threshold valve that is in fluid communication with the person's airway.

22. (Original) A device as in claim 21, wherein the threshold valve is configured to open when the person's negative intrathoracic pressure reaches about -3 cm H2O to about -20cm H2O to permit respiratory gases to flow into the person's airway.

23. (Original) A device as in claim 17, wherein the means for delivering a positive pressure breath is selected from a group consisting of a mechanical ventilator, a hand held bag valve resuscitator, mouth-to-mouth, or a means to provide intermittent positive pressure ventilation.

24. (Original) A device for lowering intrathoracic pressures, the device comprising:

a housing having an interface that is adapted to couple the housing to the person's airway;

a vacuum source in fluid communication with the housing for repeatedly extracting respiratory gases from the person's lungs and airway to create and periodically maintain a negative intrathoracic pressure;

a vacuum regulator to regulate the extraction of respiratory gases from the patient's lungs and airway; and

a positive pressure source in fluid communication with the housing for intermittently supplying positive pressure breaths to the person.

25. (New) A pressure regulator, comprising:

a housing having a patient interface that is adapted to be coupled to a person's airway, a vacuum interface that is adapted to be coupled to a vacuum source and a positive pressure interface that is adapted to be coupled to a source of positive pressure;

a switching mechanism to alter respiratory gas flows within the housing such that a vacuum may be provided at the patient interface while a vacuum is being applied at the

vacuum interface, and positive pressure ventilation may be provided at the patient interface while positive pressure is being applied at the positive pressure interface.

26. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 25, wherein the switching mechanism is configured to stop the application of the vacuum at the patient interface during delivery of a positive pressure breath at the positive pressure interface, and wherein the switching mechanism is selected from a group consisting of mechanical devices, magnetic devices and electronic devices.

27. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 25, further comprising a means for regulating the vacuum provided at the patient interface.

28. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 27, wherein the means for regulating comprises a threshold valve that is configured to open when the person's negative intrathoracic pressure reaches about -3 cm H2O to about -25 cm H2O to permit respiratory gases to flow into the person's airway through the patient interface.

29. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 25, further comprising a means for regulating the position pressure ventilation provided at the patient interface.

30. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 27, wherein the means for regulating the vacuum is configured to receive information on at least one physiological parameter of the patient to alter the applied vacuum based on the received information.

31. (New) A pressure regulator as in claim 25, further comprising a pressure measurement devices that is configured to measure one or more pressures.